

# Committee on Resources

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## **Opening Statement of The Honorable Ken Calvert Chairman**

House Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power  
Hearing on H.R. 4300, H.R. 4389, H.R. 4459 and H.R. 4606  
June 23, 2004

Today's hearing is yet another step towards providing a safer and more reliable drinking water supply. We all know that California's regions differ in many ways, particularly when it comes to water supply and use. But one unfortunate similarity is that our respective regions have impaired water quality due to perchlorate.

There are many questions surrounding perchlorate cleanup, including how to define harmful levels, how cleanup will be paid for, and the amount of liability for responsible parties.

Two of today's bills – introduced by our distinguished Full Committee Chairman, Mr. Pombo, and our southern California colleagues, Joe Baca and Grace Napolitano – rightly do not answer all of these questions. Those answers will come later as science helps determine the full extent of this problem. However, these bills appropriately recognize the immediate need for federal assistance to clean up severely impacted groundwater basins. When families have to depend on bottled water, we know a real problem exists and we must do something about stopping the expanding plumes. These bills are the right first step. As the author of a groundwater remediation measure on the original version of H.R. 2828, I'm proud to support these bills and I commend the authors for their leadership.

I also want to commend my southern California colleague, Darrell Issa, for his leadership on introducing two other bills before us today. These bills serve as a continuation of the Subcommittee's march to help "drought proof" southern California and reduce dependence on imported Bay-Delta and Colorado River waters.

In light of the need to hear our many witnesses today, I will conclude by looking forward to their testimony and I hope to advance these bills in the near future.